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~~TOP SECRET BAKIT~~

WEEKLY COMINT ECONOMIC BRIEFING

5 Oct 60

1. INDICATIONS OF SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO CUBA

Soviet shipping and [REDACTED] messages of 23 September indicate that the cargo ship Atkarsk had arrived that day in Port Nikolaev (the primary Soviet Black Sea port for loading arms for export) to load 2,454 tons of "Yastrebov's" cargo and was scheduled to arrive in Cuba between 21 and 31 October. (Yastrebov, a Soviet trade official, has been associated with the export of Soviet military cargo from Port Nikolaev since 1956.) These messages also reveal that the cargo ship Nikolaj Burdenko, (which loaded 3,234 tons of unknown cargo in Nikolaev from 9 to 16 September), would arrive in Cuba between 10 and 20 October.

Communications intelligence also indicates that the Soviet ship Kirov is probably now en route to Cuba, possibly carrying arms; and that another ship (Leninogorsk) is now loading cargo at Nikolaev for Cuba.

(Two Soviet ships are known to have delivered military equipment to Cuba; the Ilja Mechnikov on 3 September and the Solnechnogorsk on 23 September.)

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